

March 27, 2009

**2009 “HEROES IN THE HOME” AWARD**  
**NOMINATIONS ACCEPTED UNTIL MAY 1, 2009**

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

This is the fourth year of our Heroes in the Home Award. We are accepting nominations until May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Each year VHA Home HealthCare recognizes one of the unsung heroes of home care – the family members and friends caring for individuals living with chronic disability and disease. As professional caregivers, we see their compassion and their exhaustion; we work with them as care partners and try to support them in their role; we offer respite when we can.

We have had truly remarkable nominees and award recipients in the past. You can read about the past Heroes in the Home in our spring/summer issues of Community Care Connection in 2006, 2007, and 2008 at [www.vha.ca](http://www.vha.ca).

We hope that the 2009 “Heroes in the Home” award will continue to focus attention on the indispensable role of nonprofessional caregivers. As we learn and share the recipients’ stories, we hope advocacy efforts in our home health care community will help to ensure that adequate support and respite is available for these caregivers.

Do you know a nonprofessional caregiver you would like to nominate to represent the many family members and friends who are caring for the most vulnerable members of our communities? We are accepting nominations of nonprofessional caregivers throughout Ontario. Nominations can be submitted any time before **May 1, 2009** by accessing our website at [www.vha.ca](http://www.vha.ca), by email to [jklopp@vha.ca](mailto:jklopp@vha.ca) or by mail addressed *Heroes Award*, VHA Home HealthCare, 477 Mt. Pleasant Road, Suite 500, Toronto, ON M4S 2L9.

In your nomination letter, please tell us:

- **Your name and how to contact you**
- **Name and contact information of the caregiver**
- **Confirmation that the caregiver knows he/she is being nominated and is willing to have his/her contact and other personal information shared with VHA**

- **Confirmation that the caregiver and care recipient are willing to have their story shared**
- **Relationship of the caregiver to the individual receiving care**
- **Briefly describe why you think the caregiver should receive this award, e.g., the sacrifices made by the caregiver; the challenges of caring for the client/individual; the special tenderness with which care is given; the compassion and commitment shown by the caregiver; the caregiver's strong advocacy for the individual; etc.**

The Award Committee may contact the short-listed nominees or their nominators for additional information and for consent to share their stories.

Please let others know about this award by forwarding this email to your colleagues in the home care field. Thank you for working with us to recognize the enormous contribution of nonprofessional caregivers who are truly the backbone of home care.

Sincerely,

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Privacy Officer  
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